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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

The Director's cut



THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF ABSTRACT FOR 2010

I hope everyone had an enjoyable festive season and a productive year so far.

It's been a busy start to 2010 here in the ACT Office.

We welcomed a number of much needed additions to the Office and also underwent a couple of internal re-shuffles. Of note is that Mariette O'Connell is now the acting Assistant Regional Director. Tim Power has moved into the role of Census Engagement Manager. Congratulations and good luck to Mariette and Tim in their new roles. There are also some new faces in our Census and Publication teams.

The Canberra-Queanbeyan Statistical District has reached the population milestone of just over 400,000 people. The Canberra-Queanbeyan Statistical District covers the areas of:

- Canberra (351,900 people)
- Queanbeyan (40,700 people)
- Palerang - Part A (10,600 people)

Please refer to [Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09](#) (cat. no. 3218.0) for more detail.

It's full steam ahead with planning the 2011 Census here in the ACT Office. We are working closely with our NSW counterparts designing census collector workloads using mesh blocks.

We have also been out and about promoting and raising awareness for the 2011 Census. Some of you may have seen the ABS stall at the Multicultural Festival earlier this year. We had prime position being near the belly dancing stage which attracted many visitors. We used this opportunity to give away 1000 Census showbags which were snapped up by enthusiastic kids eager for the ABS branded lollipops, yo-yos and water bottles. We also had some keen data-hungry patrons who queried the ABS data that was on the display banner and requested figures for their suburbs of interest. They were promptly shown how to extract the data they needed from the ABS website. Please see [Census information](#) for photos taken on the day.

The ACT Office provided the venue for the February Chamber of Commerce "Business after Business" event. This well attended event brought together personalities from the Canberra small business community and as host, the ACT Office showcased the ABS Census products and services, in particular, the functionality of CData Online and Map Stats using local examples. Please see [Business after Business](#) for a selection of photos taken at this event.

In February, we also released our quarterly indicators publication, [In fACT](#), cat. no 1308.8 . Over recent issues we have included special articles about topical themes on the Australian capital Region as well as

provide more detail and commentary on headline indicators.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce that Ms Fiona Tearne has been outposted to the Chief Minister's Department. Working alongside the ACT Demographer, Ms Gemma Wood, Fiona is working hard on making sense of the myriad of data around the economic and fiscal implications of the population in the ACT with special consideration to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the ageing population. Fiona will also be assisting with the implementation of the [ACT Information Development Plan, 2008 - 2011](#), cat. no. 1344.8.55.003. An outposted officer is one of the best ways the ABS has to provide statistical support to State and Territory Government agencies. If you would like more information please contact me on act.office@abs.gov.au.

We would welcome any feedback about this electronic ABSTRACT. Please email us at act.office@abs.gov.au with any suggestions including contributions for future issues.

Beidar Cho

Acting ACT Regional Director

ACT Government news and events



ACT GOVERNMENT NEWS AND EVENTS

Information in this section was contributed by the ACT Chief Minister's Department.

'CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS' CAMPAIGN BRINGS EXTRA REVENUE TO THE ACT

For the past three years the ACT Government has been encouraging people from interstate to change their Medicare address to the ACT. The purpose of the month long advertising campaign is to boost the amount of GST revenue received by the Territory.

GST revenue to States and Territories is granted based on population statistics, with Medicare addresses used to help determine annual population counts. For every Canberran who does not change their Medicare address to the ACT, it is estimated that the Territory may potentially forego \$2,500 in revenue.

The campaign is conducted in partnership with SERVICE ONE Members Banking who sponsor a competition that provides the opportunity for entrants to win cash prizes if they change their Medicare address to the ACT.

Traditionally the campaign has been promoted through local print, television and radio. This year it was successfully conducted on-line, using banner advertising on news websites that directed people to a dedicated 'ChangeandWin' site. The website encouraged people to refer the competition to three friends and have a chance to win \$100 instantly, or to change their own address details with Medicare and enter the competition for an opportunity to win a major prize of \$5,000.

Statistics provided by Medicare indicated a significant increase in the number of people who changed their address during the month when the campaign is conducted. Over 1700 people having changed their address throughout the three campaigns conducted to date. It is estimated that this has resulted in an extra \$4.25 million in GST funding for the ACT community.

The campaign will be conducted again in October this year.

For more information please contact Bruce Thompson on (02) 6207 6457).

2011 Census information



2011 CENSUS INFORMATION

UPDATES

In the ACT Regional Office (as with the rest of the ABS states and territories), preparations are currently underway for the 2011 Census. In February we appeared at the Multicultural Festival to display statistics relating to the cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Festival goers had the opportunity to visit the ABS marquee, and talk to staff about navigating the ABS website and finding the information they wanted.

Photos of Multicultural Festival



One of the main areas of interest was Census and how to retrieve the relevant information. Information using statistics from Census Tables are categorised according to several different variables that highlight aspects of CALD. The main categories these tables are comprised from are:

- Country of birth (mother, father and person)
- Ancestry
- Australian citizenship
- Language spoken at home
- Proficiency in spoken English
- Year of arrival in Australia.

The ABS offers 5 free products that contain Census data. These are:

- QuickStats

- MapStats
- Census Tables
- Community Profiles
- CData Online.

Below is a section of a table that can be found in [CData Online](#).

COUNTRY OF BIRTH FOR USUAL RESIDENTS OF THE ACT

Country of birth	Males	Females	Persons
England	6 532	6 464	12 996
New Zealand	1 997	1 919	3 916
China (excluding Taiwan Province and SARs) (a)	1 594	1 951	3 545
India	1 446	1 290	2 736
Viet Nam	1 108	1 263	2 371
Germany	1 122	1 245	2 367
Scotland	1 168	1 125	2 293
Italy	1 160	1 041	2 201
United States of America	956	1 030	1 986
Malaysia	848	971	1 819
Australia	116 576	119 883	236 459
Not stated	8 973	8 242	17 215
Other(b)	16 173	17 957	34 130
Total	159 653	164 381	324 034

(a) Special Administrative Regions.

(b) Includes all other countries and supplementary codes (exchanging not stated).

Source: CData online.

As you can see, 'Not stated' answers are a big issue in the Census. This is why the ACT Regional office is putting so much effort into engagement for the 2011 Census. Our aim is to reduce those 'Not stated' answers to a minimum to provide our ACT clients with the most accurate statistics. We are available to come and talk to your community about any concerns you may have in providing information for Census or surveys.

See you out there soon!

Business after Business



BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS

PHOTOS OF THE EVENT 17 FEBRUARY 2010



BusinessAfterBusiness.gif

Photos provided by Jodi Shepherd, Hot Shots Photography

Australian Social Trends



AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

THE NEW EDITION

The ABS released the latest edition of Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) on 16 March 2010. The publication draws together a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time.

The latest edition features five articles:

The labour market during recent economic downturns

The recent global financial crisis triggered a period of slowing economic growth in Australia. This article will look at how the labour market was affected during this time and compare this to previous economic downturns.

Health and socioeconomic disadvantage

Previous analysis has shown that disadvantaged Australians have higher levels of disease risk factors and lower use of preventative health services than those who experience socioeconomic advantage. This article examines differences in indicators of health among Australians according to the relative level of socioeconomic disadvantage of where they live.

Are young people learning or earning?

Increasing education participation and improving transition to work outcomes for young Australians are key objectives of the Council of Australian Governments 2009 National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment. This article looks at the levels of engagement of young people in study and work including the transitions of recent school leavers.

Income support among people of working age

In contrast to earlier decades, the period since 1996 has seen a fall in the number of working age people receiving income support. This article examines the changes that have driven the decline and profiles the recipients of income support.

Repeat imprisonment

The imprisonment rate has increased steadily over the last decade. This article looks at prisoners who have been released from prison and then reimprisoned within 10 years of their release.

The publication shows that:

In the ACT, 12% of young people aged 15-24 years were not fully engaged (in either study or work). This was well below the national average of 19%.

Within 10 years of their release, 39% of prisoners in NSW/ACT were reimprisoned, This was one of the highest rates in Australia and equal to the national average of 39%.

Changes to ABS Classification Standards



CHANGES TO ABS CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF ANZSIC 2006 DRAWS TO CLOSE

Over the last few years, you may have noticed industry classifications changing through various Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications. The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 Implementation Program which started in 2004 draws to a close. A vast number of resources across the ABS have been involved in this program and a great deal of publications have been affected by this implementation process.

A large number of ABS collections have moved to the new industry classification and have either been released or are due to be released on the new basis by the end of 2010. All collection areas affected have released their own information papers providing users of ABS industry-based statistics with an outline of the methodology used for the implementation process of the new ANZSIC 2006 classification relevant to their particular collections. For more information on the collections that have implemented the new industry classification, see [Information Paper: Update on ANZSIC 2006 Implementation, 2008](#) (cat. no. 1295.0.55.001).

INFORMATION ON REVISION TO ANZSCO

[ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1](#) (cat. no. 1220.0), released in June 2009, is the first update of this classification which was initially released September 2006. Revision 1 includes minor changes to the classification structure and definitional changes for some occupations.

This product comprises an explanation of the conceptual basis of the classification, the classification structure and definitions for all levels of the classification (major, sub-major, minor and unit groups and occupations). The primary purpose of this product is to aid in the interpretation of ABS and Statistics New Zealand occupation statistics classified to ANZSCO.

For information about the revision refer to [Information Paper: ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1, 2009](#) (cat. no. 1221.0).

REVIEW OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

The ABS review of the CPI is underway. The CPI is a main economic indicator, measuring inflation faced by Australian households for goods and services. The review is focusing on the topics of: the principal purpose of the CPI; the compilation frequency of the CPI; an evaluation of the deposit and loan facilities index; maintaining the relevance of the CPI; commodity classification; analytical series; and other issues.

As part of the review process, the ABS has been consulting widely. Thank you to all those who attended the public forum held in Canberra on 12 March 2010, and/or provided a written submission.

For more information on the nature and content of the review and its progress, please refer to [Issues to be considered during the 16th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, Dec 2009](#) (cat. no. 6468.0).

NEW AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD (ASGS)

On 1 July 2011 the ABS will replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The current ABS geography structure such as Collection Districts (CDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs) will be replaced by mesh blocks and Statistical Area Levels 1 to 4.

Mesh blocks are the smallest geographical region and are the building blocks for the larger regions of the ASGS. Only limited Census data, total population and dwelling counts will be released at the mesh block level.

Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) will be the smallest region for which a wide range of Census data will be released, and will have an average population of about 400.

Statistical Area Level 2s (SA2s) will have an average population of 10,000 and will be built from SA1s.

These will be the regions that the majority of sub-state intercensal data, such as estimated resident population, will be released.

Statistical Area Level 3s (SA3s) will be built from SA2s and will represent functional areas of regional cities and large urban transport and service hubs.

Statistical Area Level 4s (SA4s) will be built from SA3s and used for the release of labour force statistics.

Other ABS structures (e.g. Remoteness) and non-ABS structures (e.g. Local Government Areas) will also form part of the ASGS.

Further information about the ASGS can be found in the [Information Paper: Outcome from The Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification, 2008](#) (cat. no. 1216.0.55.002).

Net Overseas Migration



NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION

IMPROVEMENTS TO PRELIMINARY NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION ESTIMATION

In 2007 the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) introduced improved methods for calculating net overseas migration (NOM). It has been used in calculating Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) since September quarter 2006. Experience in using the new NOM methodology, as well as the subsequent availability of new information, has indicated that it is now possible to make further improvements to the preliminary estimates.

Preliminary NOM data from these improvements was published for the first time on 25 March 2010 in [Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2009](#) (cat. no. 3101.0). For all quarters of 2008-09 the already published preliminary NOM estimates were replaced with new preliminary NOM estimates based on these improvements. September quarter 2009 preliminary NOM estimates have been based on these improvements and published for the first time.

Final NOM estimates for 2007-08 were also released on 25 March 2010 in [Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2009](#) (cat. no. 3101.0).

[An Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation](#) (cat. no. 3412.0.55.001) was released on 12 March 2010. It reports on the improvements made by the ABS to the quality of Australia's NOM estimation. It discusses changes made to the methodology and the examination of the source data used to estimate NOM.

New Data Available

Interstate migration data

A time series of interstate migration data from 2002 onwards is available electronically as a data cube (in Supertable format) from the Downloads tab of [Migration Australia, 2007-08](#) (cat. no. 3412.0) on the ABS website. As new data is now available this was updated for the financial year 2008-09 and released on the 25 March 2010.

Net overseas migration data

A time series of NOM data from 2004 onwards, based on the improved methodology, is available electronically as a data cube (in Supertable format) from the Downloads tab of [Migration Australia, 2007-08](#) (cat. no. 3412.0) on the ABS website. As new data is now available this was revised with final data for the financial year 2007-08 and updated with preliminary data for the financial year 2008-09 and released on the 25 March 2010.

Labour Statistics



LABOUR STATISTICS

LABOUR MARKET

Labour Statistics News (cat. no. 6106.0) is published twice yearly by the Labour Market Statistics National Statistical Centre (NSC). It provides information about the latest in labour market statistics including: outlining recent developments and survey reviews; informing and seeking feedback on current projects; providing analysis and articles on labour-related issues; providing information on how to find, use and interpret ABS labour market statistics and useful contacts within the labour market area of the ABS; highlighting significant releases of ABS labour market data or analysis; and advertising upcoming statistical training in labour market statistics.

Some key recent developments highlighted in the February 2010 Labour Statistics News include:

- the re-instatement of the full Labour Force Survey sample (fully implemented from December 2009) and the Job Vacancy Survey (in November 2009);
- the release of the 2008 Forms of Employment Survey (FOES) Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) - which includes the new Independent Contractor and Labour Hire modules; and
- the release of the Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide.

There are also a range of projects and other developments aimed at improving the range and/or usefulness of labour market statistics which are in progress, or about to commence, including:

- investigations into maximising the longitudinal nature of the Labour Force Survey through matching data across survey months;
- investigations into options for linked employer-employee data;
- upcoming release of additional aggregate monthly hours worked data;
- review of the Job Search Experience survey;
- review of measures of job change; and
- investigation into the development of temporary work measures.

Labour Statistics News aims to reach a wide range of users to inform and engage with the community on labour market issues and statistical developments.

NatStats conference 2010



NATSTATS CONFERENCE 2010

MEASURING WHAT COUNTS

Natstats logo



The Australian Bureau of Statistics will be hosting another NatStats conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour on 15 - 17 September 2010.

NatStats 2010 will bring together an array of leaders and high profile commentators, researchers and policy makers from all levels of government, media, academia, community and business. NatStats was initiated to assist in the development of a collaborative approach to national statistics. It focuses on various issues surrounding qualitative and quantitative research, which have been highlighted by key government initiatives.

The conference will build on the success of the first NatStats conference held in 2008, where around 480 delegates attended. A major outcome of the 2008 conference was the tabling of a statistical declaration to guide the development of a national statistics strategy for Australia in the 21st century.

The overall theme for the conference is "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia." The conference will be opened officially on 16th September with a plenary address by Dr Ken Henry and will focus on four main themes:

1. Challenges facing Australian Society: Issues, Policy and Information
2. Australia in the Global Economy. Do we measure up?
3. Improving Australian's Wellbeing
4. Measuring Progress: From Theory to Practice.

NatStats 2010 will aim to build on the enthusiasm and passion generated by delegates at NatStats 08 and will offer delegates an opportunity to:

- Explore the impact of expected demographic, environmental and global economic change and their implications for governance, policy, productivity and the well-being of Australia's urban and rural communities.
- Identify the improvements needed in our national statistical system to understand and respond to these challenges.
- Identify improvements needed in the current statistical frameworks for measuring progress and development to ensure Australians' wellbeing.

An exciting program is being developed and will address a range of issues regarding national statistics. If you would like to hear more about NatStats 2010 Conference, or have any suggestions, please contact Annette Hants on (02) 6252 6936 or email natstats@nss.gov.au.

ABS ACT statistical training program



ABS ACT STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

DEVELOP YOUR STATISTICAL SKILLS

Each office of the ABS offers practical, informative and relevant training to help you develop your statistical skills. These courses may also be tailored to suit your particular needs or additional programs can be developed as required for presentations at your own locality. The next scheduled courses for the ACT are:

- [Principles of Questionnaire Design](#)
- [Analysing Survey Data Made Simple](#)
- [Turning Data Into Information](#)
- [Understanding Demographic Data](#)
- [Introduction to Labour Statistics](#)
- [Basic Survey Design](#)
- [Making Quality Informed Decisions](#)

Principles of Questionnaire Design

Overview: A well designed questionnaire is vital for collecting high quality data. The aim of this two-day course is to provide participants with an awareness and understanding of questionnaire design principles. The course content covers:

- Context of questionnaire design
- Defining survey objectives
- Developing content based on survey objectives
- Determining most appropriate collection methodology
- Understanding how respondents answer questions
- Developing questionnaire wording
- Ordering of questions
- Format and layout
- Accompanying information
- Testing questionnaires
- Evaluating questionnaires

Is this course for me? This course is designed for people who will be involved in designing and conducting a survey and wish to gain an understanding of how to design a questionnaire that will collect data accurately.

Date: 5 May 2010

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Analysing Survey Data Made Simple

Overview: This two-day computer-based course develops practical skills in basic statistical and graphical data analysis techniques using Microsoft Excel. It aims to equip participants with the skills to:

- identify the steps involved in data analysis;
- summarise and display survey data in graphical and tabular form;
- find simple relationships in survey data; and
- test for statistically significant differences between survey results.

Is this course for me? This course is designed for people with limited training and exposure to statistical analysis who need to learn how to analyse and describe data that have been collected in surveys. A mathematical background is beneficial but not essential. Previous experience using spreadsheets is recommended.

Dates: 18 May 2010 and 15 June 2010

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Turning Data Into Information

Overview: This two-day course is intended to provide skills in interpreting, communicating and displaying data clearly and effectively. Participants will gain skills in transforming data into meaningful written information, particularly in respect to social policy issues. At the completion of this course participants will be able to:

- understand how the collection and compilation of data affects their usefulness, quality and relevance;
- communicate results and prepare written reports;
- construct good tables and graphs; and
- recognise possible pitfalls in analysis.

Is this course for me? This course will be most beneficial to people who need to use data to produce reports or social commentary, or people who are involved with monitoring and evaluation in a social context.

Date: 2 June 2010

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Understanding Demographic Data

Overview: This 1 day course provides an understanding of the demographic data framework and the processes which shape the population and includes practical exercises in the analysis of demographic data. At the completion of this course participants will have an:

- Understanding of the demographic data framework
- Understanding of processes which shape the population
- Basic ability to analyse demographic data

Is this course for me? This course would be useful for people who use and/or need to understand demographic data.

Date: 8 June 2010

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST)

Introduction to Labour Statistics

Overview: This 1 day course provides an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of products available to access labour-related data. At the completion of this course participants will have an:

- Understanding of key labour concepts and issues
- Awareness of available ABS labour-related data and products

Is this course for me? This course would be useful for people who use and/or need to understand ABS labour statistics.

Date: 16 June 2010

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST)

Basic Survey Design

Overview: The aim of this 2 day course is to give a broad overview of all facets of survey development. The

course covers developing survey objectives, advantages and disadvantages of various collection methodologies, questionnaire development, data processing and reporting of results. At the completion of this course participants will have the:

- Ability to formulate survey objectives and prepare project briefs
- Appreciation of issues and limitations associated with survey management and design
- Identification of appropriate survey techniques for data collection
- Understanding of the entire survey process

Is this course for me? This course would be useful for people who will be involved in conducting a sample survey, or people who would like to gain a broad understanding of the issues associated with the survey process.

Date: 25 June 2010

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Making Quality Informed Decisions

Overview: Need to introduce some quality into your statistical decision making?

This one-day course introduces the concept of 'holistic quality' through the use of a data quality framework. The framework ensures that users of statistics are able to assess whether the statistics are fit for their intended use. This course will provide participants with an increased understanding of:

- how to set up a quality framework;
- risk management in making statistical decisions;
- how to assess datasets in the context of data need; and
- using information on data quality to make better informed decisions.

Is this course for me? This course would be useful for anyone who uses statistics in decision making, or is involved in producing statistics and wants to ensure that statistics are used appropriately.

Date: 21 July 2010

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST) per person

Further details of training courses and registrations forms can be found on the [ABS Training home page](#).

How well do you know the Australian Capital Region



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL REGION?

QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. What does the ACR stand for?
2. Who is best remembered as the originator of the "Federation" strain of wheat?
3. What architect firm won the competition to design Parliament House?
4. When did the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly first sit?
5. What structure occupied the Acton Peninsula prior to the National Museum being built?

For answers to the quiz go to [How to subscribe](#)

How to subscribe



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Disclaimer

Please note that the ABS has implemented a handheld stylesheet that removes images. This enables us to provide you fast loading pages while on a handheld device. Please note that as a result, some graphs and other images may be removed and to see the full statistical product you should visit the full version of the ABS website.

Quiz answers:

1. Australian Capital Region.
2. William James Farrer.
3. Mitchell/Giurgola Architects from New York.
4. 11 May 1989.
5. Royal Canberra Hospital.

Have your say



HAVE YOUR SAY

CALL FOR FEEDBACK

We would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Feedback can be directed to the ABS ACT Regional Office.

Telephone: 6525 8900

Fax: 6247 2389

Email: act.office@abs.gov.au

ABS National Information Referral Service (NIRS)

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Fax: 1300 135 211

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

About this Release

ABSTRACT - Statistical News: Australian Capital Territory provides new and relevant information about survey developments, information and training sessions, user consultations, major changes to the statistical program, state/territory data releases and significant ABS data releases.

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ACR	Australian Capital Region
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
CMD	Chief Minister's Department
CPI	consumer price index
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
ERP	estimated resident population
FOES	Forms of Employment Survey
IDP	Information Development Plan
NOM	net overseas migration

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